



TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE SUCCESS

## WINTER EDITION 2008



Winter can pose serious threats to health and safety and can impact the states within our FEMA Regions

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### ACRONYM ALLEY

**DSNAP**- *Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program*

Formerly the Disaster Food Stamp Program, DSNAP is the primary nutrition assistance response in the disaster recovery phase and provides much needed benefits to disaster victims. For more information on DSNAP please visit:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/>

# 11 NEWS AT ELEVEN

A Seasonal Publication Providing Information on ESF-11 Agriculture & Natural Resources

## Welcome to News at Eleven



Welcome to *News at Eleven*, a seasonal publication designed to provide information, resources and guidance to assist you in your role as an Emergency Support Function 11 (ESF-11) Desk Officer.

As the Eastern Region Emergency Program Manager my role is to support the efforts of the five ESF-11 Coordinators who are located throughout the east in close proximity to their respective FEMA regional offices. The most critical aspect of their job is to develop, train, and sustain a cadre of motivated volunteer Desk Officers to ensure that we are able to provide an effective ESF-11 response. We believe that *News at Eleven* is an excellent way to communicate and stay connected throughout the year. Because as you know, disasters happen in all seasons.

This inaugural edition of *News at Eleven* will describe ESF-11, discuss the roles and responsibilities of the ESF-11 Desk Officer as well as provide information relevant to training, response and lessons learned. In addition, there is a section dedicated to your specific region. Subsequent issues will be produced three to four times a year and will follow this same format.

We appreciate your efforts to support the ESF-11 mission. We hope you find this newsletter informative.

Sincerely,

## So What is ESF-11 Anyway?

Whether through work or at home many if not all of us have responded to natural disasters or other emergencies.

As an ESF-11 Desk Officer you directly support ESF-11 – Agriculture & Natural Resources, one of 15 Federal ESFs that provides the structure for coordinating federal interagency support to state, tribal and other federal agencies during a federal response to an incident.



Activated by FEMA, ESF-11 provides a representative to the Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) located in each FEMA Region and/or the Joint Field Office (s) (JFO) in the affected state (s). USDA-APHIS (US Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) is tasked as the lead agency to coordinate the ESF-11 function.

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To ensure full-time preparedness and to provide direct support, USDA-APHIS has divided the ten FEMA Regions among their existing Eastern and Western Regions and has created an ESF-11 Coordinator position to support each of the ten FEMA Regional Offices. The USDA-APHIS Eastern Region encompasses FEMA Regions I-V (left) and is coordinated by Eastern Region Emergency Response Manager (ER-REPM) Matt Bragg.

When activated and deployed, the ESF-11 Desk Officer plays an important part in the ESF-11 mission. Some of the critical roles & responsibilities of the Desk Officer include:

- Representing ESF-11 in the FEMA facilities at the ESF-11 Desk and in meetings and conference calls,
- Collecting and disseminating information and reports on the services and support that the ESF-11 partner agencies are providing,
- Utilizing key contacts and subject matter experts for technical assistance and referrals to others,
- Tracking mission assignment progress.

There are many other aspects related to ESF-11 that will be discussed in the future.

#### TRAINING/PREPAREDNESS

## Be Prepared (and trained)!

Be prepared! That old Scouting adage will help you to become a more effective ESF-11 Desk Officer as you prepare yourself for a possible activation. To become more familiar with the Incident Command System (ICS) and other processes and procedures that are inherent to the disaster response community, we recommend completing the following AgLearn and/or FEMA on-line courses:

'NATIONAL INCIDENT RESPONSE; DEPLOYMENT BASICS" IS AN EXCELLENT ON-LINE COURSE DESIGNED TO HELP USDA EMPLOYEES PREPARE FOR DEPLOYMENT TO A DOMESTIC INCIDENT.'

**AgLearn** <http://www.aglearn.usda.gov> :

ICS100 (SEC-ICS-100 ver2); ICS200 (SEC-ICS-200 ver2); IS700 (SEC-NIMS-001 ver2); Introduction to National Incident Response (USDA-HSO-NIR-01); National Incident Response; Deployment Basics (USDA-HSO-NIR-02); Mission Assignments (USDA-HSO-MA-01)

**FEMA** [www.training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp](http://www.training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp) :

IS-100.a; IS-200.a; IS-700 (National Incident Management System (NIMS, An Introduction)); IS-800.B (National Response Framework: An Introduction)

This is also a good time to talk to your supervisor regarding your agency's procedures on activation and deployment and how your agency's fiscal/financial department will handle reimbursement if you are deployed. There may also be some special steps required by your timekeeper to track overtime and if you incur any travel expenses while deployed.

And, you will want to be sure that your family/significant others and pets are prepared for your deployment.

## RESPONSE

**ESF-11: Four Agencies—One Face**

Communication and teamwork are vital to the success of a disaster response effort. ESF-11 responds and provides support through its four partner agencies (right). Together these agencies make up the one face of ESF-11. The following agencies support the five primary disaster response functions that are coordinated through ESF-11.

**USDA-FOOD NUTRITION SERVICE (FNS)**

Provides nutrition assistance through USDA donated food commodities to congregate feeding operations, and in some instances, for household distribution. FNS authorizes the request by the impacted state's agency for the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly Disaster Food Stamps.

**USDA-APHIS-VETERINARY SERVICES (VS) AND PLANT PROTECTION & QUARANTINE (PPQ)**

Responds to animal and plant diseases and pests and can provide support to livestock through the National Veterinary Stockpile and other means. In addition, it can offer technical expertise on plant destruction and disposal issues.

**USDA-APHIS-ANIMAL CARE (AC)**

Provides for the safety and well-being of household pets through technical assistance and subject-matter experts for activities including the evacuation, transportation, sheltering, husbandry, and veterinary care of affected household pets.

**USDA-FOOD SAFETY & INSPECTION SERVICE (FSIS)**

Provides for the safety and security of the commercial food supply by assessing the operating status and products of USDA inspected meat, poultry, and egg product processing, distribution, import, and retail facilities in the affected area.

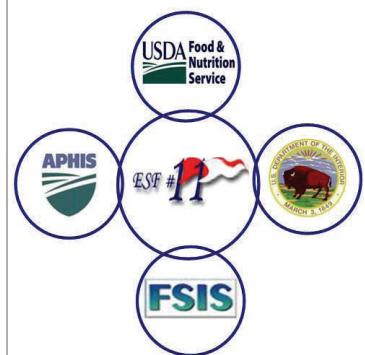
**THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (DOI)**

Provides for the protection of natural, cultural, and historical resources through technical assistance and support to FEMA's Environmental and Historical section by assessing the impact on natural, cultural, and historical resources.

ESF-11 is comprised of many diverse organizations and it takes a team effort to provide an effective all-hazards response. Whether through Desk Officer support, direct mission assignments, Stafford Act responsibilities; and/or interagency coordination, the following agencies are among those that ensure ESF-11 is ready to respond: APHIS Wildlife Services (WS); APHIS Investigation and Enforcement Services (IES); USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA); USDA Rural Development (RD); and USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS).

All of these agencies are an integral part of the ESF-11 team and may be called upon to provide needed services during a disaster.

ESF-11: Four Agencies – One Face



**HURRICANE KATRINA  
BROUGHT TO LIGHT THE  
NEED TO ACCOMMODATE  
PETS AND SERVICE  
ANIMALS IN PLANS FOR  
EVACUATING RESIDENTS  
FACING DISASTERS.**



## AFTER ACTION/LESSONS LEARNED

## After Action Reporting Process

### 2008 Eastern Region Activations

- Midwest Earthquake
- Midwest Flooding
- Tropical Storm Fay
- Hurricane Gustav
- Hurricane Hanna
- Hurricane Omar
- Severe Winter Storm

The 2008 hurricane season was very active. Although the level of response varied among the Eastern FEMA Regions, we were able to share individual experiences with our colleagues through the After Action Reporting (AAR) process. In keeping with established protocols, the ESF-11 responders that were activated and deployed this past season documented their experiences via this process. As a result, a number of changes are expected to be implemented that will help us to respond more effectively in the future. Below are some of the issues that are currently being addressed.

- **Procedures and Reports** - A number of documents and standard operating procedures that may have been introduced to you at the ESF-11 Desk Officer trainings are in the process of undergoing revisions including the ESF-11 Daily Report, parts of the ESF-11 Desk Officer's Guide, and associated reports.
- **Carcass Disposal** - Procedures, agreements, contracts, and coordination of responsible agencies will need to be developed so that carcasses are removed and disposed of in an efficient and effective manner.
- **Travel/Time and Attendance** - Several refinements to this process are being developed.

The After Action Report is a critical tool that helps us to continually improve the ESF-11 response. After being deployed to an incident, we encourage you to share your experiences using the After Action Reporting form that you will be provided.

## Regional Roundup—FEMA Region III

**Tim.Walsh@aphis.usda.gov**

The ESF-11 Desk at FEMA Region III was very busy this year beginning with a National Level Exercise in May, followed by an activation for Hurricane Hanna and the Operation Hotwire Exercise. While not everyone in the ESF-11 community was directly involved these were excellent opportunities to learn more about what is expected of the ESF-11 Desk.

Events from this past year also included a variety of trainings and exercises, face-to-face meetings with state agency staff, and a combined Region II and III ESF-11 Desk Officer orientation. This newsletter and a brochure were also developed to help educate and inform folks about ESF-11. Specific activities planned for next year will include conducting classroom and remote access Desk Officer training, holding regional ESF-11 drills to assess our capabilities, and updating the Desk Officer Contact database.

I learned a lot about disaster response in my new role as the FEMA Region III ESF-11 Coordinator. Perhaps the most important lesson is that it takes a team to get this job done. And, judging by the successes of this past year, we have what it takes.

Thank you for all that you do to support the ESF-11 mission. If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to contact me. – Tim Walsh

## Quick Quiz

Name the four agencies that make up the one face of ESF-11.

- A. FNS, FBI, DHS, FEMA
- B. DOI, APHIS, DWI, USDA
- C. APHIS, DOI, FNS, FSIS
- D. DOT, EPA, ARC, DHS

Answer C